

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/676,776	JERVIS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ramesh Krishnamurthy	3753

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to communications filed 05/27/05.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 - 17.
3. The drawings filed on 01 October 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 10/03
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

This office action is responsive to communications filed 05/27/2005.

Claims 1 – 17 are pending.

1. Claims 1 – 17 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the prior art of record neither shows nor teaches a combination for the claimed pressure relief apparatus that comprises in combination with other recited elements, (1) a flow control assembly connected to a valve block, wherein the flow control assembly provides a first passage between a first conduit connected to an actuator and a second conduit through which fluid is exhausted while pressure at the first conduit exceeds a first threshold and provides a second passage between the first conduit and the second conduit when pressure at the first conduit exceeds a second threshold level, the second passage being maintained open as long as pressure at the first conduit is greater than a third threshold level which is less than both the first threshold level and the second threshold level OR (2) first and second relief valves disposed in a housing bore a first relief valve within the bore of the housing and having an inlet port to receive fluid from the actuator conduit, the first relief valve further comprising a primary poppet selectively abutting a first valve seat and disengaging the first valve seat when pressure from the inlet port exceeds a first threshold to open a path between the inlet port and the tank return conduit; a passageway extending between the inlet port and an intermediate chamber within the bore of the housing; and the second relief valve opening to provide a fluid path between the intermediate chamber and the tank return conduit when pressure in the intermediate chamber exceeds a second threshold level, remaining open even

though the pressure in the intermediate chamber decreases below the second threshold level OR (3) a nose member received in the housing and defining an intermediate chamber in the housing bore, the nose member having internal chamber into which an inlet port and a first outlet port open, wherein a first valve seat is located between the inlet port and the first outlet port; a primary poppet slidably received in the internal chamber of the nose member and having an aperture providing a fluid passage between the inlet port and the intermediate chamber; a valve spring biasing the primary poppet against the first valve seat; a body within the bore and separating the intermediate chamber from a control chamber, the body having a control aperture between the intermediate chamber and the control chamber, a bleeder poppet within the bore of the housing and selectively opening and closing the control aperture, wherein pressure in the intermediate chamber acts on a smaller area of the bleeder poppet when the control aperture is closed than when the control aperture is open, thus a greater pressure is required in the intermediate chamber to open the control aperture than is needed thereafter to maintain that open condition; and a tank passage connecting the control chamber to a second outlet..

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramesh Krishnamurthy whose telephone number is (571) 272 – 4914. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Frederick Nicolas, can be reached on (571) 272 – 4931. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 – 8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Ramesh Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., PE
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3753